

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00375 181355Z  
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
AID-05 /072 W  
-----181412 094594 /43

R 181300Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0375

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINT PORG UNSC OAU DM  
SUBJ: ARRIVAL OF UN FACT FINDING COMMISSION IN BENIN

1. SPECIAL UN FACT FINDING COMMISSION CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATING  
JANUARY 16 MERCENARY ATTACK ARRIVED IN COTONOU FEBRUARY 16.  
DELEGATION LED BY PANAMA'S UN AMBASSADOR JORGE ILLUECA, AND CON-  
SISTING OF LIBYAN AMBASSADOR MANSUR R KIKHIA, AND INDIAN  
REPRESENTATIVE RAMESH N MULYE, WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY INTERIOR  
MINISTER AZONHIHO, FINANCE MINISTER ATCHADE, AND MINISTER OF  
EQUIPMENT RODRIGUEZ. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE REPORTEDLY IS IN  
EUROPE.

2. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY EHUZU FEBRUARY 17 QUOTED FROM  
ARRIVAL STATEMENT BY ILLUECA SAYING "ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY HAS CONDEMNED ARMED FOREIGN AGGRESSION AGAINST  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 00375 181355Z

BENINESE PEOPLE JUST AS IT CONDEMNS ALL MERCENARY ACTIVITIES."  
STATING THAT THE COMMISSION HAD TO FILE ITS REPORT BY THE END OF  
THE MONTH, ILLUECA SAID HE HOPED THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE  
COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21.

3. COMMENT: FACT FINDING MISSION HAS RECEIVED MUCH ATTENTION  
FROM BENINESE MEDIA SINCE IT OFFERS GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLES

REPUBLIC OF BENIN(GPRB) CHERISHED OPPORTUNITY OF ATTRACTING WORLD ATTENTION, IF ONLY FOR A BRIEF PERIOD. GIVEN COMPOSITION OF MISSION, MAJORITY OF DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS HERE ARE SPEPTICAL OF GROUP'S ACCOMPLISHING MORE THAN MERELY RUBBER-STAMPING FINDINGS OF TRIPARTITE (NIGERIA, BENIN, AND GUINEA) COMMISSION WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTING ITS OWN INVESTIGATION. ALTHOUGH THESE RESULTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, GENERAL FEELING HERE IS THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT GPRB'S ALLEGATIONS OF "IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION."

4. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER BENIN CAN CREDIBLY FIX BLAME ON "NEO-COLONIALISTS" WITHOUT SPECIFYING ANY COUNTRY BY NAME. FRENCH HAVE TOLD US THAT WHILE PRESIDENT KEREKOU HAS BEEN INVEIGHING AGAINST "ATTEMPT AT COLONIAL RECONQUEST" GPRB HAS BEEN PRESSING FRANCE FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. ACCORDING TO FRENCH GROUND RULES IN EFFECT SINCE GPRB ADOPTED MARXISM, FRANCE CAN LIVE WITH GENERAL REFERENCES TO NEO-COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM AND STILL MAINTAIN A DONOR RELATIONSHIP WITH BENIN. IF FRANCE, HOWEVER, IS SPECIFICALLY CITED IN AN UNACCEPTABLE WAY, FRENCH HAVE TOLD BENINESE THEY ARE PREPARED TO CUT THEIR LOSSES AND LEAVE BENIN. ALTHOUGH KEREKOU'S PERSONAL SYMBOL IS THE CHAMELOEN, IN THIS INSTANCE HE MAY FIND HIMSELF UNABLE TO ADAPT SIMULTANEOUSLY TO THE COMPETING REQUIREMENT OF IDEOLOGY AND PRAGMATISM. THOMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977COTONO00375  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770058-0931  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** COTONOU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770228/aaaaayvg.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1aa77cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3284784  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARRIVAL OF UN FACT FINDING COMMISSION IN BENIN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PORG, DM, UNSC, OAU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1aa77cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009